

Charles Statham and "Cecily" Brothers

There is evidence that Charles Statham married Sisely Brothers but other claims about this marriage can be directly refuted or plausibly questioned.¹

Claim: that Charles Statham and Cecily Brothers married in about 1762:

- The first known appearance of Sisely as the wife of Charles was in September 1817 when they sold a huge parcel of land in three separate deeds: 385 acres to Henry A. Christian; 300 acres to William Furbush; and 486 acres to Richmond Statham.²
- Mary and Charles Statham sold land in 1780³ so unless there was a yet-to-be identified earlier wife, Mary was the mother of Charles's surviving children: Jane, the youngest, was born between 1776 and 1780 going by her census records.

Evidence for Sisely's maiden name comes from two sources:

- First, a legal notice that Charles Statham had filed a Chancery suit in Buckingham County in January 1821 against John Brothers; Thomas Brothers; Francis Brothers; Caleb Stoval and wife Lucy; John Strong and wife Jemima; Edward Page and wife Martha; and John Hubbard Suggs and wife Betsy.⁴ This suit obviously concerned the estate of John Brothers Sr. but unfortunately the suit itself did not survive a courthouse fire.⁵
- Second, personal property tax lists for Buckingham County:⁶
 - John Brothers (Sr.) was on the lists from 1782 through 1807; there is no list for 1808 and he was missing in 1809 so he had probably died in the interim.

¹ Frederick Adams Virkus, *The Compendium of American Genealogy*, seven volumes (1930; reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1968), 4: 628.

² Campbell County, Virginia Deed Book 11, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org>), to Henry A. Christian, pp. 379-380, images 550-551; to William Furbush, pp. 435-436, images 578-579; to Richmond Statham, pp. 450-451, image 586.

³ Albemarle County, Virginia Deed Book 7, p. 494, image 274, FamilySearch.

⁴ Lewis Hobgood Averett, "Buckingham County, Virginia, Chancery Suit Notices Found in Lynchburg, Virginia, Newspapers, 1794-1832," *The Virginia Genealogist* 37 (April-June 1993): 84, American Ancestors (<http://www.americanancestors.org>), citing *The Lynchburg Press*, 20 April 1821, January 1821 Court.

⁵ LVA.archdesk (LVA), Virginia State Archives, Richmond, <archdesk@lva.virginia.gov>, to Donna Newman, e-mail, 10 February 2014, "Library of Virginia Contact Us," subject: Chancery Suits, Buckingham County.

⁶ Buckingham County, Virginia, Personal property tax lists, 1782-1810 (Sisely Brothers, 1809, image 583); and 1811-1826 (Sisely Brothers, 1814, image 84); FamilySearch.

- Names from the Chancery suit legal notice appeared on the same tax lists: John Brothers Jr.; Thomas Brothers; Francis Brothers; John Strong; Edward Page.
- And in 1809, the first year John Brothers Sr. was missing, Sisely Brothers and Elizabeth Brothers were listed, each paying taxes for a slave. They were on the tax lists through 1814 so Sisely's marriage to Charles Statham occurred sometime between then and 1817.

Claim: that Sisely was the widow of an unidentified Stewart:⁷

- With her appearance as Sisely Brothers in 1814 and as Sisely Statham in 1817 this seems unlikely but if true it was a fatally short marriage.

Charles Statham's land

The land Charles and Sisely Statham sold in 1817 was described when it was sold to him by Samuel Pleasants' heirs as 1168 acres "lying on both sides of the line which divides Campbell and Buckingham counties."⁸

The deed states Charles was the plaintiff in a suit but the Chancery record names the plaintiffs as Samuel Pleasants' administrators and the defendants as the guardians of his two minor children. According to Pleasants' widow Elizabeth her husband had executed a deed to Charles Statham in June 1802 and re-acknowledged it in 1806 and 1807 but died before it was registered. My reading of the case is that the parties already agreed to title being conveyed to Charles and filed the suit just to get the court's blessing because minors' interests were involved;⁹ this might explain the fact that John T. Pleasants was both plaintiff, as administrator of the estate, and defendant, as one of the guardians.

Some seven months after selling the Buckingham-Campbell land Charles bought a tract in Rutherford County, Tennessee.¹⁰ He died there in 1826 but there's no mention of Sisely in his will¹¹ or estate documents. Sisely's sister Elizabeth Sugg also died in Rutherford, in about 1832, leaving her estate to her sisters Patsy Page and Jemima Strong.¹²

⁷ Virkus, *The Compendium of American Genealogy*,

⁸ Campbell Co. Deed Book 11, pp. 336-338, images 529-530.

⁹ Powhatan County (Va.) Chancery Causes, 1782-1938. Admr. of Samuel Pleasants etc. v. Gdn(s) of Robert Pleasants etc., 1815-002. Local Government Records Collection, Powhatan Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

¹⁰ Rutherford County, Tennessee Deed Book L, p. 259, image 641, FamilySearch.

¹¹ Rutherford Co., Tenn. Record Book 5-6, pp. 252-254, images 793-794, DGS no. 7642461, FamilySearch.

¹² Rutherford Co., Tenn. Record Book 8, pp. 502-503, image 258, DGS no. 7642462, FamilySearch.